

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03

H-02 SCS-03 SCA-01 DODE-00 PRS-01 NSCE-00 INRE-00

SSO-00 /048 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CAR - MR. STRASSER:LEE

APPROVED BY ARA - AMBASSADOR RYAN

ARA/CAR - MR. BURKE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 136431

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, DR

SUBJECT: DOMINICAN AMBASSADOR INFORMED OF USG CONCERNOVER
ACCESS TO DETAINED AMERICAN CITIZENS

REF: SANTO DOMINGO 2569; STATE 134554; SANTO DOMINGO 2537

1. DOMINICAN AMBASSADOR HORACIO VICIOSO SOTO WAS ASKED TO
COME TO THE DEPARTMENT TODAY AND WAS RECEIVED BY DEPUTY
ASSISTANT SECRETARY RYAN AT 11 P.M.

2. AMBASSADOR VICIOSO WAS INFORMED BY AMBASSADOR RYAN OF
THE ARREST OF THREE US CITIZENS FROM PUERTO RICO WHO HAVE
BEEN HELD BY DOMINICAN AUTHORITIES SINCE JUNE 2 AND THAT
ACCESS TO THESE INDIVIDUALS BY US CONSULAR OFFICERS HAD NOT
YET BEEN GRANTED DESPITE BOTH ORAL REQUESTS AND THE PRESEN-
TATION OF A FORMAL REQUEST BY DIPLOMATIC NOTE YESTERDAY.

3. AMBASSADOR RYAN EXPRESSED DEEP CONCERN OVER THE INABI-
LITY OF THE USG TO CARRY OUT ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER ARTICLE
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36 OF THE VIENNA CONSULAR CONVENTION. HE DREW THE AMBAS-

SADOR'S ATTENTION TO THE HEIGHTENED CONCERN IN THE US OVER HUMAN RIGHTS. HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT ACCESS TO THESE CITIZENS WOULD BE GRANTED AND THAT THE MATTER WOULD NOT BE

ALLOWED TO INTERFERE WITH THE NORMALLY CORDIAL RELATIONS EXISTING BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS.

4. THE AMBASSADOR APPEARED UNAWARE OF THE DETENTION OF THESE AMERICANS AND EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT ACCESS HAD NOT BEEN GRANTED BY THIS TIME. HE SUGGESTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE DETENTIONS MIGHT BE RELATED TO THE RECENT SECURITY PROBLEMS IN HIS COUNTRY. AMBASSADOR RYAN SAID WE UNDERSTOOD THERE SEEMED TO BE A CONNECTION BETWEEN THE ARRESTS AND THE RECENT REPORTED LANDING BY GUERRILLAS, BUT THAT THIS DID NOT AFFECT OUR RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS TO HAVE CONSULAR ACCESS UNDER THE VIENNA CONVENTION. AMBASSADOR VICIOSO SAID HE WOULD GET IN TOUCH WITH HIS FOREIGN SECRETARY IMMEDIATELY.

5. SHORTLY AFTER 12 NOON, VICIOSO CALLED AMBASSADOR RYAN TO SAY THAT HE HAD BEEN IN TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY JIMENEZ. THE FOREIGN SECRETARY SAID THAT THE DETAINED AMERICANS WERE IN GOOD HEALTH BUT UNDER A "RIGOROUS INVESTIGATORY PROCESS" AND THAT ACCESS TO THEM WILL BE GIVEN AS SOON AS THIS PROCESS IS COMPLETED. AMBASSADOR RYAN TOLD VICIOSO THAT THIS RESPONSE WAS NOT SATISFACTORY AND THAT THE VIENNA CONVENTION REQUIRED IMMEDIATE ACCESS TO DETAINED INDIVIDUALS.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: THE CHARGE IS REQUESTED TO FOLLOW UP THIS DEMARCHE WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY JIMENEZ, DESCRIBING THE PURPOSE FOR CALLING THE AMBASSADOR TO THE DEPARTMENT AND REITERATING THE POINTS WHICH WERE MADE TO VICIOSO BOTH DURING THE APPOINTMENT AND IN THE SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION. KISSINGER

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